



16-20 February

Seminar Programme and Foyer Activities

Monday 16 February

11:00-12:00	Opening ceremony festAmbient 2026 Ecoliterature in various languages. Venue: Foyer
12:00-13:00	M16/12 Minn għeruq in-natura <i>Attività li se tittella' bi šhab mad-Dipartiment tal-Malti tal-Junior College.</i> Ms Marlene Saliba Kamra: A301

In the Foyer:

In captivity for Life in Malta – An Exhibition.

Bake sale in aid of JC Environmental Committee initiatives, including the care of JC cats.

Stands: Argotti Botanic Gardens and Resource Centre, Heritage Malta, Institute of Earth Systems, Earth Systems Association.

Life is better with Pets at JC (Advance registration required. For further information contact Dr Romina Frendo – romina.frendo@um.edu.mt, Dr Michelle Ellul – michelle.ellul@um.edu.mt or Dr Rosa Drago Ferrante – rosa.drago-ferrante@um.edu.mt).

Tuesday 17 February

In the Foyer:

In captivity for Life in Malta – An Exhibition.

Bake sale in aid of JC Environmental Committee initiatives, including the care of JC cats.

Stands: Heritage Malta, Institute of Earth Systems, Earth Systems Association, BirdLife Malta, Moviment Graffitti.

Let's go Thrifting – A pre-loved clothing event organised by JC4Others in collaboration with the Environmental Committee.

Wednesday 18 February

10:00-11:30	W18/10 Hear the trees speak - An Eco-Writing Workshop with poet Abigail Ardelle Zammit <i>A workshop organised in collaboration with the Department of English. Booking in advance required – Please refer to 'Details of seminars and activities' section.</i> <i>Includes reading, writing time, quiet tree time & feedback.</i> Dr Abigail Ardelle Zammit Venue: A203 and the Junior College grounds.
12:00-14:00	W18/12/13 L-Ambjent taħt il-lenti: Mistoqsijiet bla kantunieri <i>An activity organised in collaboration with the Department of Systems of Knowledge, Grupp Hsieb Hieles and the Philosophy Society (JC).</i> Guests: Perit Faye Sciberras – Sustainable construction and climate adaptation Prof Alan Deidun – The marine environment Dr Julian Mamo – Water Dr Mark Scerri – Air and noise pollution, legislation Mr Jonathan Henwood – Trees in a changing climate Dr Andre Callus – Activism

Students attending the seminars and selected activities will be exempted.

	Venue: Auditorium
14:00-15:00	<p>W18/14 Maltese habitats: an introduction (Compulsory for Biology students – All JC staff and students are welcome to attend)</p> <p><i>A seminar organised by the Department of Biology in collaboration with the JC Environmental Committee.</i></p> <p>Prof. Patrick J. Schembri</p> <p>Venue: Auditorium</p>

In the Foyer:

In captivity for Life in Malta – An Exhibition.

Stands: Heritage Malta, BirdLife Malta, Moviment Graffitti.

Let's go Thrifting – A pre-loved clothing event organised by JC4Others in collaboration with the JC Environmental Committee.

Thursday 19 February

09:00-10:00	<p>T19/09 Nitrogen dioxide levels in various areas within the JC Campus as an indicator of air quality.</p> <p><i>A seminar organised in collaboration with the Institute of Earth Systems - University of Malta, and the Earth Systems Association.</i></p> <p>Dr Mark Scerri, Alisha Zerafa, Nicolà Farrugia, Mattea Tanti and Justine Previ</p> <p>Venue: A301</p>
10:00-11:00	<p>T19/10 Environment and Public Health</p> <p><i>A seminar organised in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London, Malta.</i></p> <p>Dr John Paul Cauchi</p> <p>Venue: A301</p>
11:00-12:00	<p>T19/11 Environment and Public Health</p> <p><i>A seminar organised in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London, Malta.</i></p> <p>Dr John Paul Cauchi</p> <p>Venue: A301</p>
12:00-13:00	<p>T19/12 Career Choices for a Changing World</p> <p><i>A seminar organised in collaboration with the JC Student Advisor.</i></p> <p>Ms Christabel Saliba</p> <p>Venue: A301</p>
13:00-14:00	<p>T19/13 Arctic expedition - Circumnavigation Svalbard</p> <p><i>A seminar organised in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Sciences and Physical Education.</i></p> <p>Dr Joe Doublet</p> <p>Venue: A301</p>

In the Foyer:

In captivity for Life in Malta – An Exhibition.

Friday 20 February

11:00-12:00	Planting activity in collaboration with <i>Ilwien</i> and <i>il-Perla</i> Childcare centres. Tree planting to mark the 30 th Anniversary of Junior College.
	Venue: Junior College Grounds

In the Foyer:

In captivity for Life in Malta – An Exhibition.

Students attending the seminars and selected activities will be exempted.

Details of seminars and activities

M16/12 Minn għeruq in-natura

Attività li se tittella' bi šhab mad-Dipartiment tal-Malti tal-Junior College.

Venue: A301

Ms Marlene Saliba

It-Tnejn 16 ta' Frar 12:00-13:00

Attività letterarja bil-Malti li se tlaqqagħna mal-poetessa Marlene Saliba. L-attività se titmexxa minn Leanne Ellul u matulha Marlene Saliba se taqra diversi poeżiji minn tagħha. L-istudenti mħegġa jistaqsu l-mistoqsijiet tagħhom lil din il-poeta li għandha tant għal qalbha l-ambjent, ir-relazzjoni tal-bniedem man-natura, u ż-żmien.

Marlene Saliba, poeta u eks-lettriċi, bdiet tikteb fl-etià ta' 14-il sena. Il-poežija tagħha hija magħrufa għall-meditazzjoni fuq l-ispazju u l-kosmos, ir-rabta umana mal-univers u l-potenzjal ta' fejqan individwali u socjali. Temi ċentrali oħrajn huma nnatura u r-rabta tal-bniedem magħha. Barra minn hekk, tesprimi interress fil-perijodu Neolitiku u fil-wirt spiritwali tal-antenati tagħha. Saliba studjat il-letteratura Ingliza f' Malta u fir-Renju Unit, u ħadmet bħala lettriċi fil-Junior College u fl-Università ta' Malta. Fost il-pubblikkazzjonijiet tagħha nsibu Time-Faring, Nimirħu maż-Żmien u Xbijat tal-Antenati/Ancestral Visions.

W18/10 Hear the Trees Speak: An Eco-Writing Workshop with Poet Abigail Ardelle Zammit

A workshop organised in collaboration with the Department of English. Booking in advance required.

Venue: A203

Dr Abigail Ardelle Zammit

Wednesday 18 February 10:00-11:30

Once students apply for this 90-minute workshop, they will receive a PDF with a brief selection of prose-texts and poems inspired by the contemplation of trees and the environmental threats that they face. During the workshop students will be given the opportunity to discuss key aspects of these texts, which they can then apply to their own ecologically-inspired writing. Handouts with prompts will be provided so that during the 30-minute outside activity that will follow, students will be able to write their own response to a JC tree of their choice. For ease of reference, a selection of JC trees will be tagged beforehand. The last part of the activity constitutes reading and feedback time whereby students will return to the classroom to share what they have written and learn from each other's eco-texts and eco-poems.

The ultimate aim of this workshop is to listen to what trees have to say; only by letting them into our lives will it be possible to appreciate their unique beauty and quiet wisdom. The verdant grounds of the Junior College provide an ideal space for starting to understand how safeguarding our environment starts by falling in love with the beings that sustain us and which we are duty-bound to preserve for the generations to come.

Workshop spaces – 35

Participants will be chosen on a first come, first served basis. Apply early to avoid disappointment – Application deadline 10th February.

Abigail Ardelle Zammit is a writer, editor and educator. Her poetry collections are Leaves Borrowed from Human Flesh (Etruscan Press, 2025), Portrait of a Woman with Sea Urchin (SPM, 2015) and Voices from the Land of Trees (Smokestack, 2007). Abigail's poems, translations and reviews have appeared or are forthcoming in Ploughshares, CounterText and Trafika Europe, among others. She has also co-authored two bilingual pamphlets and The Poetry Buddy: A Seamus Heaney Guide for Advanced Level Students. Abigail is currently researching desert landscapes from around four continents and her most hybrid collection deserere #desertum is forthcoming with Tupelo Press (2028). For more info, visit abigailardellezammit.net.

Students attending the seminars and selected activities will be exempted.

W18/12-13 L-ambjent taħt il-Lenti: Mistoqsijiet bla kantunieri

An activity organised in collaboration with the Department of Systems of Knowledge, Grupp Hsieb Hieles and Philosophy Society (JC).

Venue: Auditorium

Guest speakers: Dr Andre Callus (Activism), Prof Alan Deidun (The marine environment), Jonathan Henwood (Trees in a changing climate), Dr Julian Mamo (Water), Dr Mark Scerri (Air and noise pollution, legislation), Perit Faye Sciberras (Sustainable construction and climate adaptation).

Wednesday 18 February 12:00-13:00 (Part I); 13:00-14:00 (Part II)

Students from the JC Environmental Committee, Grupp Hsieb Hieles and Philosophy Society (JC) will put their questions directly to guest speakers, tackling contested and challenging environmental issues in Malta — from development and construction, climate adaptation, the marine environment, trees and air quality, to water resources and environmental activism. Expect uncomfortable questions and honest, evidence based answers. Students attending the seminar will also have the opportunity to put forward their own questions.

***Dr Andrè Callus** is a prominent Maltese activist and leading figure in the grassroots organisation Moviment Graffitti, known for his outspoken stance on environmental and social justice issues. Renowned for his direct rhetoric and public engagement, he actively campaigns against overdevelopment and environmental degradation while participating in lectures and forums on urban planning and activism. In recognition of his contributions to Maltese society, the University of Malta has conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Social Sciences degree.*

***Prof. Alan Deidun** is Malta's first Ocean Ambassador and a marine biologist. He is a Full Professor at the University of Malta, directing the Malta Training Centre of the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and coordinating the MSc in Applied Oceanography. He serves as Malta's national delegate to CIESM and is a member of the EU Commission's Ocean Mission Board. A prolific researcher, Prof. Deidun has published over 230 peer-reviewed papers, with more than 4,000 citations, and has contributed extensively as a marine ecology consultant and Principal Investigator in numerous EU-funded projects. His research focuses on coastal and benthic ecology, marine alien species, jellyfish dynamics, water quality monitoring, and marine spatial planning.*

***Mr Jonathan Henwood** is a Senior Lecturer at MCAST specializing in arboriculture, horticulture and landscaping. With an MSc in Botany from the University of Malta, he has extensive experience in aspects of flora in the Maltese Islands on environmental services, including permitting, environmental impact assessments, and habitat restoration and protection. His research focuses on flora, in particular trees and their habitats in the Mediterranean area.*

***Dr. Julian Mamo** is an academic at the Institute of Earth Systems, Division of Environmental Management and Planning, with 15 years of experience in water management. He specializes in assessing water resources in arid and semi-arid environments and integrating traditional sources (groundwater and surface water) with non-conventional supplies such as reclaimed wastewater and desalination. Dr. Mamo holds a PhD in Water Science and Technology from the University of Girona (Spain), an MSc in Water Management from Cranfield University (UK), and a B.Eng. (Hons) from the University of Malta. He has worked in Malta, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, and the UAE, and has authored several publications in hydrology, hydrogeology, and water resource management.*

***Dr Mark Scerri** is a lecturer at the Institute of Earth Systems at the University of Malta and the course coordinator of the B.Sc. (Hons.) in Earth Systems. He delivers lectures in Environmental Law, Statistics, Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Pollution. He is an air quality specialist and has worked at the air quality section within ERA. Additionally, he is a committed environmentalist.*

***Perit Faye Sciberras** is an architect and Research Officer on the Euro-Med Interreg project ReMED – Towards Climate Resilient Mediterranean Cities and Horizon project AdaptationHubs at the University of Malta's Faculty for the Built Environment. Transitioning from two decades of industry experience to academia, she is currently reading for a PhD focused on Resilience*

Students attending the seminars and selected activities will be exempted.

and Sustainability. Her research specializes in assessment tools with a focus on Green Infrastructure, aiming to create a more climate-resilient and sustainable built environment.

W18/14 Maltese habitats: an introduction (Compulsory for Biology students – All JC staff and students are welcome to attend).

A seminar organised by the Department of Biology in collaboration with the JC Environmental Committee.

Prof. Patrick J. Schembri

Venue: Auditorium

Wednesday 18 February 14:00-15:00

The Maltese Islands, despite their small size, are home to a relatively large variety of living organisms. These include a number of species that only thrive on the islands. The main vegetational assemblages are maquis, garigue and steppe; minor ones include patches of woodland, coastal wetlands, sand dunes, freshwater, and rupestral communities; the latter are the most scientifically important in view of the large number of endemic species they support. The presentation will shed light on the particular ecological characteristics of the Maltese Islands.

Prof. Patrick J. Schembri B.Sc.(Melit.),M.Sc. (Melit.),Ph.D.(Glas.),C.Biol.,F.R.S.B. Born at Birkirkara, Malta in 1954. He studied at the Lyceum Grammar School, the Royal University of Malta's Junior College, and at the University of Malta from where he graduated B.Sc. in chemistry and biology in 1975 and M.Sc. in biology in 1977. He was then awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship at the University of Glasgow, Scotland from where he obtained the Ph.D. degree in zoology in 1980. He later carried out research work at the University of Otago, New Zealand (Postdoctoral Fellowship 1981-82), at the University of Delaware, USA (Fulbright Senior Research Scholarship 1985-86), and at the University of Durham, England (Durham Research Foundation Visiting Fellowship 1992). In 1999 he was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Biology (Britain, now the Royal Society of Biology) and registered as a Chartered Biologist. In 2000 he was appointed Honorary Research Associate of the University Marine Biological Station, Millport (University of London). He is a Full Professor in the Department of Biology of the University of Malta and was Head of the department between 1992 and 1996.

T19/09 Nitrogen dioxide levels in various areas within the JC Campus as an indicator of air quality.

A seminar organised in collaboration with the Institute of Earth Systems and the Earth Systems Association.

Venue: A301

Lecturer: Dr Mark Scerri; Students: Alisha Zerafa, Nicolà Farrugia, Mattea Tanti, Justine Previ

Thursday 19 February 09:00- 10:00

The lecturing team will be reporting on the results of a monitoring campaign for nitrogen dioxide (an air pollutant) that was carried out between the 28 November and the 19 December 2025. Air was sampled near the child care centre, near the chapel, near the football pitch, near the entrance and blue bar and it will give an indication of the pollution that students are exposed to while on the JC Campus.

Dr Mark Scerri is a lecturer at the Institute of Earth Systems at the University of Malta and the course coordinator of the B.Sc. (Hons.) in Earth Systems. He delivers lectures in Environmental Law, Statistics, Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Pollution. He is an air quality specialist and has worked at the air quality section within ERA. Additionally, he is a committed environmentalist.

Alisha, Nicolà, Mattea and Justine are final year students in the B.Sc. (Hons.) in Earth Systems course. They are currently working on their Final Year Projects.

In fact: Alisha is trying to understand the reasons behind youth disengagement from environmental activism; Nicolà is working on a project related to the measurement of airborne dust; Mattea is researching the sediment transfer and deposition in Wied il-Qlejgħa; Justine is looking at meteorological and marine parameters at the Ċirkewwa Marine Protected Area. This is only a sample of the interesting work students do throughout this three-year course.

Students attending the seminars and selected activities will be exempted.

T19/10/11 Environment and Public Health

A seminar organised in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London, Malta.

Venue: A301

Dr John Paul Cauchi

Thursday 19 February 10:00-11:00; 11:00-12:00

Dr Cauchi will deliver a seminar exploring the concept of environmental health, its importance, and how environmental factors influence human health. The session will include local case examples with interactive elements, as well as international perspectives drawn from research on environmental impacts on health outcomes.

Please note that the seminar content may be adjusted in response to specific requests.

Dr John Paul Cauchi is a senior lecturer at Queen Mary University of London, Malta (QMUL Malta) specializing in public health, expertise in epidemiology, climate-health modelling, and food systems research. He works across academic and applied settings, with a strong focus on statistical analysis, surveillance systems, and policy-relevant evidence in small-island and low-resource contexts.

T19/12 Career Choices for a sustainable world

A seminar organised in collaboration with the JC Student Advisor

Venue: A301

Ms Christabel Saliba

Thursday 19 February 12:00-13:00

This workshop, titled *Career Choices for a Changing World*, begins with an overview of sustainability and introduces students to its importance in career planning. The session explores how to transform environmental anxiety into career innovation, highlighting how every profession, from fashion to technology, can contribute to a sustainable future.

Through a hands-on Ikigai (生き甲斐) activity, students will discover how to connect their personal passions with the urgent needs of a changing planet to make impactful career decisions. The session also includes a case study on sustainable fashion design featuring 3D Sustainable Fashion Designer, Lindsay Azzopardi.

Through group discussions, students explore how various career sectors can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The workshop concludes with a deep dive into green job trends, encouraging students to take one actionable step toward a career that balances personal fulfillment with a positive impact on the planet.

Ms Christabel Saliba is the Student Advisor at Junior College, specialising in guiding students towards meaningful academic and career choices. Passionate about environmental sustainability, she has developed initiatives, including a national career guidance manual to help students reflect on their values in relation to their career paths. With years of experience in teaching and guidance, Christabel focuses on integrating sustainable and socially responsible practices into career planning.

She believes every individual can make a positive impact through their career and encourages them to explore sustainable options in today's evolving job market.

Students attending the seminars and selected activities will be exempted.

W19/13 Arctic expedition - Circumnavigation Svalbard

A seminar organized in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Sciences and Physical Education.

Venue: A301

Dr Joe Doublet

Thursday 19 February 13:00-14:00

The presentation will consist of a brief overview of the Arctic island of Svalbard including its history, climate, geology, landscape and wildlife.

Dr J Doublet has been working at the Junior College for the last 18 years teaching Environmental Science. He is a keen wildlife and landscape photographer and has been observing wildlife, mainly birds since he was 16 years. He has been involved in eNGOs and has travelled to more than 20 countries in five continents following his passion.

Foyer activities

Opening ceremony of the fourth edition of festAmbjent

An activity organised in collaboration with the Department of English, the Department of Foreign Languages and the Department of Maltese.

The reading of ecoliterature in Maltese, English, Italian and French by Leah Grech, Ana Stankovic, Kaine Attard, Lisa Grech, Sofia Laviola, Daniel Busuttil, Hailey Cilia, Daniela Farrugia, Mariah Farrugia and Kien Vo, followed by short speeches delivered by Michela Borg Cardona (JC Environmental Committee student), Ms Jacqueline Rotin (JC Environmental Committee Chairperson) and Mr Paul Xuereb (JC Principal). Poet Marlene Saliba will join us for the opening ceremony.

Life is better with Pets at JC (16 February)

Bring Your Pet Along!  Advance registration required. Dogs, cats, rabbits & small pets welcome! (*No exotic or captive wildlife*). For further information contact Dr Romina Frendo – romina.frendo@um.edu.mt, Dr Michelle Ellul – michelle.ellul@um.edu.mt or Dr Rosa Drago Ferrante – rosa.drago-ferrante@um.edu.mt.

In Captivity for Life in Malta (16-20 February)

An exhibition prepared by Ms Jacqueline Rotin, Chairperson of the JC Environmental Committee, which aims at raising awareness on wild and dangerous animals being held in captivity in Malta.

Exploring Plant Connections – Argotti Botanic Gardens and Resource Centre (16 February)

Argotti Botanic Gardens & Resource Centre will be showcasing key aspects of its work, including the **Herbarium, essential oil production**, and the relationship between plants and pollinators through **honey tasting**. Students will be asked through a simple questionnaire to rate different aspects of each honey and select which one was liked best and why.

A selection of plants from different habitats will be presented to demonstrate how species adapt to specific environmental conditions, highlighting the link between plant form, function, and habitat.

Students will also have the opportunity to take part in a small competition by answering questions from the different sections, with the winners receiving a plant as a prize. Through the essential oil station, they will link specific essential oils to their corresponding plants; at the herbarium station, they will identify a plant using a dichotomous key; and by examining the plants displayed on the opposite side of the boards, they will suggest which plant is most suitable for a particular location.

Students attending the seminars and selected activities will be exempted.

Extinction - Heritage Malta (16-18 February)

The stand of the National Museum of Natural History explores the narrative of biodiversity loss through a selection of museum specimens, bridging the gap between the fossil record and the current crises faced by biodiversity. Some biological mechanisms that drive extinction are highlighted. Students can examine unique specimens up close, learn about scientific cataloguing, discuss the vital role of modern conservation, and see how lessons from the past help safeguard our planet's future and support one of the major themes in the biological sciences.

The Institute of Earth Systems and Earth Systems Association - ESA (16-17 February)

Learn about the work that is done at The Institute of Earth Systems, which was set up with the primary aim of carrying out teaching and research in environmental and rural sciences, with a focus on Earth's complex and dynamic systems. Meet students of the ESA, who represent the students reading for the B.Sc (Hons) in Earth Systems, and participate in interactive activities that will be organised at the stand.

Bake sale (16-17 February)

In aid of JC Environmental Committee initiatives, including the care of JC cats.

Let's go Thrifting (17-18 February)

A pre-loved clothing event organised by JC4Others in collaboration with the Environmental Committee.

Activities in the Junior College Grounds

Planting (20 February at 11:00)

Planting activity in collaboration with *Il-wien* and *il-Perla* Childcare centres. A tree will be planted by Mr Paul Xuereb (JC Principal) to mark the 30th Anniversary of Junior College.

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